

ATTACHMENT 3. STATUS OF GWMP

The Brite, Cummings, and Tehachapi Basins are adjudicated groundwater basins under California Superior Court Order. Adjudication of the basins was determined to be necessary due to dwindling groundwater supplies. Since the groundwater basins are managed pursuant to court judgments, no additional groundwater management plans are required as AB 3030 allows for this type of alternative structure for management of groundwater basins (Water Code Sections 10750 to 10756). The basins have been actively managed by TCCWD, the court designated Watermaster, for the past 40 years. As Watermaster, TCCWD prepares annual reports and submits them to the Court on a calendar year basis.

In 1966, lawsuits were filed in the Kern County Superior Court for the Brite, Cummings, and Tehachapi Groundwater Basins within the TCCWD service area. Due to dwindling groundwater supplies, adjudication of the basins was determined to be necessary.

The base water rights of the Tehachapi Groundwater Basin were established by the Judgment from California Superior Court Case No. 97210 in 1971. A physical solution to meeting the parties' water needs was established by filing the "Amendment to Judgment" in 1973. This ruling created "allowed pumping allocations" for each party as well as party domestic rights which restricted total annual extractions within the Tehachapi Basin to the safe yield of 5,500 AF.

A Judgment was filed in 1970 for the Brite Groundwater Basin in the Kern County Superior Court Case No. 97211. The Judgment resulted in a Safe Yield of 500 AFY being established among other findings.

The Judgment for the Cummings Groundwater Basin was filed in 1972 in the Kern County Superior Court Case No. 97209. While Cummings Basin is adjudicated, the adjudication did not include implementation of a physical solution. Thus, while a safe yield was established at 4,090 AFY, there is no restriction on pumping for use within the basin (overlying use).

Each of the Judgments incorporated the following requirements:

- Appointed TCCWD as Watermaster and designated duties, powers, and responsibilities;
- Injunction against exporting native groundwater from the basin;
- Injunction against diverting surface water from the watershed;
- Under continuing jurisdiction of the Court.

A detailed boundary description of the basins is included in the court judgments. **Exhibit 3.1** is a map that shows the boundaries of the basins as identified in the court rulings. Copies of the Judgments are included in **Exhibit 3.2**.

The main purpose of the Judgments is to provide a groundwater management program in the basins in order to prevent further damage to the basins and to allow the integration of imported supplemental water with local groundwater supplies. TCCWD and the stakeholders in the basins have been working diligently to resolve groundwater related concerns within each of the three basins.

In accordance with the Court Judgments, TCCWD has the following responsibilities:

- Serving as Watermaster of the basins, monitoring groundwater and surface water activities within the basins.

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- Completing annual Watermaster Reports summarizing groundwater basin activities. The most recent reports are included in **Exhibit 3.3**.
- Approving permanent and temporary transfer of water rights.
- Establishing and enforcing Watermaster rules and regulations to administer the Judgments and to carry out its duties, powers and responsibilities under the Judgments.

The County of Kern in coordination with TCCWD and urban water purveyors, developed goals and policies for water resources (See **Exhibit 3.4**) in the Greater Tehachapi Area Specific and Community Plan that was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in November 2010 (http://www.co.kern.ca.us/planning/pdfs/SPs/qtasp_final.pdf). These goals and policies are based upon the findings of a Water Supply Assessment (<http://goo.gl/0tb18>) that was prepared for the plan. Included in the policies are specific measures related to the protection of the water supply and quality of the groundwater basins.

TCCWD has also initiated the following management activities in coordination with basin stakeholders:

- Constructed a delivery system, through public financing, for delivery of State Water Project (SWP) water to stakeholders within TCCWD.
- Formed the Water Availability Preservation Committee (WAPC), formerly the Long-Term Water Supply Committee, which has been meeting since the early 1990s and is a critical component to groundwater management. The WAPC includes public water purveyors, mutual water companies, Kern County, California Correctional Institution, private water companies and other water professionals. TCCWD provides detailed water supply and monitoring information to this committee, which meets on a monthly basis.
- Constructed groundwater recharge facilities, which allow TCCWD to store State Water Project water in the Tehachapi and Cummings groundwater basins for subsequent extraction and beneficial use. Recharge operations began in 1995.
- Entered into long-term M&I contracts with Bear Valley Community Services District (CSD), Stallion Springs CSD, Golden Hills CSD, and the City of Tehachapi for groundwater recharge and recovery. TCCWD has also worked with the CSDs for the construction of extraction wells and a delivery pipelines.
- Monitors groundwater levels in the basins at key well locations. The District is meeting the requirements of the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) program by submitting groundwater level measurements for 14 wells.
- Installed water meters on delivery wells and turnouts in water system.
- Expanded the Chanac Creek Recharge Area by constructing recharge ponds, and the District recently constructed a delivery pipeline for direct recharge of SWP water.
- Worked with other agencies to prepare a report titled Tehachapi Source Water Protection Plan in December 2002 that included the following tasks: (1) identification of groundwater recharge area boundaries; (2) delineation of wells, protection zones around each well, and travel time of groundwater; (3) effectiveness of physical barriers from preventing contamination of the groundwater supply; (4) inventory of possible contaminating activities; and (5) public notification of findings.
- Worked with Fugro West, Inc. (now Fugro Consultants, Inc.) and ETIC Engineering to prepare the Cummings Basin Groundwater Modeling Study (Final Report dated March 2004).
- Collaborated with the City of Tehachapi and Golden Hills CSD to have Fugro West, Inc. prepare the Tehachapi Groundwater Basin Study (Final Report dated June 2009).
- TCCWD initiated the preparation of the Regional Urban Water Management Plan for the Tehachapi Area that included Bear Valley CSD, Stallion Springs CSD, Golden Hills

CSD, and the City of Tehachapi as participants. The Plan served as an excellent collaboration tool between the agencies in determining the long-term reliability of the water supplies and included groundwater management and water conservation strategies.